

A Social History of American Public Health
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Professor David Rosner
Office Hours: Mondays, 12-2, Fayerweather Hall

dr289@columbia.edu
212-305-1727

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a historical understanding of the role public health practice has played in American history during the 19th and 20th centuries. The underlying assumptions are that disease, and the ways we define disease, are simultaneously reflections of social and cultural values, as well as important factors in shaping those values. Also, it is maintained that the environments that we build determine the ways we live and die. The dread infectious and acute diseases in the nineteenth century and the chronic, degenerative conditions of the twentieth are emblematic of the societies we created. The syllabus has been constructed to focus on a few particular themes and issues. The first part of the course will focus on the social and biological environment and the creation of conditions for nineteenth century epidemics of cholera, typhoid, yellow fever and other epidemic diseases. The second part of the course will trace the changing urban and industrial infrastructure and their relationship to late nineteenth and early twentieth century concerns about tuberculosis, industrial illness and infection. The third part of the course will trace public health practice, and public health campaigns, and the ways that social attitudes towards the industrial worker, the immigrant, African Americans, women and gays shaped the field. The last part of the course will look at the boundaries between public health and medical practice and raise questions about their shifting definitions. As topics indicate, the course will emphasize that public health is intimately related to broader social, political, as well as scientific, changes overtaking the country and will incorporate a very broad range of subjects from changes in urban living and culture, through the transformation of the industrial work place.

Among the questions that will be addressed are: How does the health status of Americans reflect and shape our history? How do ideas about health reflect broader attitudes and values in American history and culture? How does the American experience with pain, disability and disease affect our actions and lives? What are the responsibilities of the state and of the individual in preserving health? How have American institutions -- from hospitals to unions to insurance companies -- been shaped by changing longevity, experience with disability and death? These questions are central to this class. By focusing on recent works on the interaction of health, politics, and ideas about gender, race, and class, the course will look at the ways social values are shaped by, and help shape, definitions of disease, ideas about prevention, and social responsibility for care for those made dependent by illness.

Requirements for the Course include reading and class participation, a research paper (due at the end of the semester) and a class presentation. The research paper must be based upon original, primary documents, manuscript collections and other historical sources. Students will meet with the instructor and report to the class on the progress of their research at various points in the semester.

Books Ordered:

David Rosner, Ed. Hives of Sickness: Epidemics and Public Health in New York City, (Rutgers)
Charles Rosenberg, The Cholera Years
Howard Markel, Quarantine!
Judith Leavitt, Typhoid Mary
Allan Brandt, No Magic Bullets
Stephan Jay Gould, The Mismeasure of Man
David Rosner & Gerald Markowitz, Deadly Dust
Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, Deceit and Denial
Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action
Keith Wailoo, Drawing Blood

Also, the assigned articles are available through the School of Public Health and are on reserve at the Library.

Defining the People's Health

1. Introduction

2. A Brief Historiography

Peter Novick, That Noble Dream, pp. 415-468.

Rosner, "Tempest in a Test Tube: Medical History and the Historian,"
Radical History Review, (1982), pp.166-171.

Ronald Numbers, "The History of American Medicine: A Field in Ferment,"
Reviews in American History, (December, 1982), pp. 245-263.

Primary Sources: Lloyd Stevenson to David Rosner, (1973).

3. The Disease Experience in America: Historiographic Overview

Richard Harris, A Sacred Trust, The Story of Organized Medicine's Multi-
Million Dollar Fight Against Public Health Legislation, (1966) pp. 1-19.

Health PAC - The American Health Empire: Power, Profits, and Politics, (1970),
pp. 3-28.

Victor Fuchs, Who Shall Live?, (1974), pp. 31-55.

Ivan Ilych, Medical Nemesis, (1976) 3-36.

John McKinley and Sonja McKinley, "The Questionable Contribution of Medical
Measures to the Decline of Mortality in the United States in the Twentieth
Century," MMFQ/Health & Society, 55(1977), 405-428.

4. The People's Health in the Colonial Period

Philip Greven, Four Generations: Population, Land, and Family in Colonial
Andover, Massachusetts, (1978), pp. 21-40.

John Demos, "Notes on Life in Plymouth Colony," William & Mary Quarterly,
22(1965), 69-91.

Carville V. Earle, "Environment, Disease, and Mortality in Early Virginia," in
Tate and Ammerman, eds. The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century :

Essays on Anglo-American Society, pp. 96-125
E. Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom, 158-171.

5. Nineteenth Century Epidemics

Charles Rosenberg, The Cholera Years, (Chicago)

Rosner, Hives of Sickness, Epidemics and Public Health in New York City,
Especially "Introduction" and Chapter 2 by Betsy Blackmar. (Rutgers).
Condran, Changing Patterns of Epidemic Disease in New York City in
Rosner, Hives of Sickness pp.27-41.

Primary Documents:

Catherine Beecher, Letters to the People on Health and
Happiness, (1855) pp. 7-11; 164-184.

Selections from the Cholera Bulletin (1832)

Horace Griscom, The Sanitary Conditions of the Laboring Classes in
New York, (1845) [See Web Site]

Metropolitan Board of Health, Report on the Sanitary Conditions of
the City, 1865, pp. 73-84. [See Web Site for Additional District
Reports]

suggested: Nancy Tomes, The Gospel of Germs, (Harvard University Press).

6. Immigration, Isolation and 19th Century Epidemics (1)

Howard Markel, Quarantine!

7. The Public Health Response during the Progressive Era

Judith Leavitt, Typhoid Mary, (Beacon)

Primary documents:

Annual Report of the Department of Health, City of New York, 1910-
1911

pp. 11-17;33;40-49. [also available on Web site]

"Sickness," in Robert Hunter, Poverty: Social Conscience in the
Progressive Era, (1904), pp. 141-189.

8. Public Health Research, Race and Sex

Keith Wailoo, Drawing Blood

M.F. Jacobson, Whiteness of a Different Color, (1998), pp.1-90.

Various readings on the Bell Curve debate:

R.C. Lewontin and Leon Kamin, "IQ: The Rank Ordering of the World," in
Harding, The Racial Economy of Science, (1993), pp. 142-159.

Primary Materials:

J. Marion Sims, The Story of My Life, (1984), pp. 222-246.

H.L. Sutherland, "Another Phase of the Race Problem: What Shall We Do With
Our Negro Consumptives?" Transactions of the Mississippi State Medical
Association, (1908). pp. 234-243.

9. Covering the Earth with Lead and Plastics: The Emergence of Industrial Disease
Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, Deceit and Denial
10. Environment and Disease
John Harr, A Civil Action;
Readings on Environmental Racism

The Borders of Personal and Public Health

11. Medicine, Public Health, and the Establishment of the Modern Institutions of Medicine
Secondary Materials: Robert Hudson, "Abraham Flexner in Perspective," Bulletin of the History of Medicine, 56(1972), 545-561.
E. Richard Brown, Rockefeller Medicine Men, 1978, pp.60-97.
Primary Materials: Abraham Flexner, Medical Education in the United States and Canada
(Carnegie Foundation Bulletin #4), pp. 42-59; 143-155; 178-179; 180-181.
12. Private Services and Public Health: The Transformation of the Hospital
read one of the following:
Charles Rosenberg, The Social Transformation of the American Hospital
Rosemary Stevens, In Sickness and in Wealth
David Rosner, A Once Charitable Enterprise
Primary Documents: Various Annual Reports from 19th and 20th Century
Institutions
13. Organizing Health Services in the Great Depression
Selections from the Final Report, Committee on the Costs of Medical Care
(1932).
Responses from AMA
Rosemary Stevens, selection
Elizabeth Fee, "The Pleasures and Perils of Prophetic Advocacy: Socialized
Medicine and the Politics of American Medical Reform," in Elizabeth Fee
and Theodore Brown, Eds. Making Medical History, (Johns Hopkins), pp.
197-228.
14. Workers as Objects of Study
Martin Cherniack, The Hawk's Nest Incident, pp. 1-80.
Rosner and Markowitz, Deadly Dust, (Princeton)
15. Case Studies in History and the Law:
Student Presentations
Depositions and Exhibits for Vanderbilt Radiation Experiments
Depositions and Exhibits for Occupational and Environmental Disease
Depositions and Exhibits for Childhood Lead Poisoning

Select Bibliography

Midwives

- Jane Donegan, *Women and Men Midwives: Medicine, Morality, and Misogyny in Early America* (Greenwood)
- Judy B. Litoff, *American Midwives 1860 to the Present* (Greenwood)
- Judith Leavitt, *Brought to Bed*, (Oxford)
- Antler, Joyce and Dan Fox, "Movement Toward Safe Maturity" 50 (*BHM*, 1976), p569-595

Women Physicians

- Regina Markell Morantz, C. S. Pomerlean and Carol H. Feurchel, ed. *In Her Own Words: Oral Histories of Women Physicians* (Greenwood)

European- Reproductive Health

- Naomi Pfeffer, *The Stork and the Syringe* Polity Press, 1993 (Oxford, England)
- G. J. Bunker- Benfield, *Horrors of the Half-Known Life: Male Attributes Toward Women and Sexuality in the 19th Century America* (Harper and Row, 1976)
- Eugene Deiberg and R. Lacroix, "Immigrant Midwives of Lawrence; The Conflict Between Law and Culture in Early 20th Century Massachusetts," 59 (*BMH*, 1985), 232-246
- Ehrenreich, B. and Deidre English, *Witches, Midwives and Nurses. A History of Women Healers*, (Feminist Press, 1973)
- Sue Fisher *In the Points Best Interest: Women and the Politics of Medical Decision Making* (Rutgers, 1986)
- John S. Haller and R.M. Haller, *The Physician and Sexuality in Victorian America*, (Illinois, 1974)
- Frances Korbin, "The American Midwife Controversy: A Crisis of Professionalization," 40 (*BHM*, 1966), 350-63
- Judith Leavitt, *Brought to Bed: Childbearing in America*, (Oxford, 1986)
- Barbara Katz Rothman, *In Labor: Women and Power in the Birthplace*, (Norton, 1982)
- Edward Shorter, *A History of Women's Bodies*, (Basic, 1982)
- Jean Toneler and Jose Branall, *Midwives in History and Society*, (Routledge, 1986)
- Mary Roth Walsh, *Doctors Wanted: No Women Need Apply*, (Yale, 1977)
- R. W. Wertz and Dorothy Wertz, *Lying- In: A History of Childbirth in America*, (Free Press, 1977)

Death and Dying

- Sherwin Nuland, *How We Die*, (Knopf, 1994)
- Russell Maulitz, *Morbid Appearances, The Anatomy of Pathology in the Early 19th Century*, (Cambridge, 1987)
- David Rothman, *Strangers at the Bedside*, (Basic, 1991)
- Elizabeth Etheridge, *The Butterfly Cast: A Social History of Pellagra in the South*, (Greenwood, 1972)

Disease

Robert D. Hudson, *Disease and Its Control, the Shaping of Modern Thought*, (Greenwood)

Alfred Crosby, *America's Forgotten Plague, The Influenza of 1918* (Cambridge, 1989)

Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor*, (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1978)

Thomas McKeown, *The Role of Medicine. Dream, Mirage or Nemesis?* (Princeton, 1979)

Harry Dowling, *Fighting Infection: Conquests of the Twentieth Century* (Harvard, 1977)

Ivan Illich, *Medical Nemesis: The Expropriation of Health*, (Calder and Bayers, 1975)

Louis Lasagna, "The Pharmaceutical Revolution: Its Impact on Science and Society," 166 *Science*, 1969, 1227-38

Russell Maulitz, ed. *Unnatural Curses: The 3 Leading Killer Diseases in America*, (Rutgers, 1988)

John Duffy, *Epidemics In Colonial America*, (LSU, 1953) Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Claude Quetel, *History of Syphilis*, (John Hopkins, 1990)

Allan Brandt, *No Magic Bullet, A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States Since 1880*, (Oxford, 1985)

Jim Jones, *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment* (Free Press, 1991, 1993)

C. Rosenberg and J. Golden, *Framing Diseases* (Rutgers, 1992)

E. Ackernecht, *Malaria in the Upper Mississippi Valley 1760-1900*, (John Hopkins, 1945)

Todd Savitt and J. H. Young, eds. *Disease and Distinctiveness in the American South*, (Tennessee, 1988)

Richard Evans, *Death in Hamburg*, (Clarendon, 1987)

Margaret Humphreys, *Yellow Fever and the South*, (Rutgers, 1992)

J. H. Powell, *Bring Out Your Dead, The Great Plague of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia In 1793*, (Pennsylvania, 1949, 1993).

Khaled J. Bloom, *The Mississippi Valley's Great Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878*, (LSU, 1993)

Occupational and Environmental Disease

Hoffman, Beatrix, The Wages of Sickness, (North Carolina)

Clark, Claudia, Radium Girls, (North Carolina)

Warren, Christian, Brush with Death, (North Carolina)

Rosner and Markowitz, Dying for Work, (Indiana)

Markowitz and Rosner, "Slaves of the Depression," (Cornell)

Sellers, Christopher, Hazards of the Job, (North Carolina)

Sex and Politics

Stephen Nissenbaum, *Sex, Diet and Debility in Jacksonian America: Sylvester Graham and Health Reform*, (Greenwood)

L. Jordanova, *Sexual Visions*, (Wisconsin, 1989)

Ronald Bayer, *Homosexuality and American Psychiatry*, (Basic, 1981)

Joan Burbich, *Healing the Republic*, (Cambridge, 1994)

Eva Rubin, ed. *The Abortion Controversy, A Documentary History*, (Greenwood, 1994)

Physiology

Peter English, *Shock, Physiological Surgery and George Washington Guile*, (Greenwood)

Technology

Audrey B. Davis, *Medicine and Its Technology: An Introduction to the History of Medical*

Instrumentation

- Stanley Reiser and M. Anban, eds. *The Machine at the Bedside*, (Cambridge, 1978)
Joel Howell, *Technology in the Hospital*, (Johns Hopkins).
George Rosen, *From Medical Police to Public Medicine*, (Science History Pubs, 1974)
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Nicholas Warden, "A New Smallpox Outbreak Leads Scientist to Suicide," 201 (Science, 1978,) 1108

National Politics

- Ronald Numbers, ed. *Compulsory Health Insurance: The Continuing American Debate* (Greenwood)
Paul Starr, *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*, (Basic).
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Philip Cushman, *Constructing the Self, Constructing America*, (Addisa-Wesley, 1995)
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Colleen O'Toole, *The Search for Purity*, (1890-1920) (Garland, 1990)

Imperialism and Medicine

- David Arnold, *Imperial Medicine and In????? Societies*, (Manchester, 1988) (Dist. by St. Martin)
Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe 900-1900* (Cambridge, 1986)
Philip Curtin, *Death by Migration. Europe's Encounters with the Tropical World in the 19th Century*, (Cambridge, 1989)
Roy Macleod and Milton Lewis, eds. *Disease, Medicine, and Empire Perspectives on Western Medicine and the Experience of European Expression*, (Routledge, 1988)

Encyclopaedia and References

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Gert Brieger, *Medical America in the Nineteenth Century*, (Johns Hopkins, 1972)

AIDS in History

- Steven Epstein, *Impure Science*, (California, 1996)
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Alternative Medicine

James Young, *The Medical Messiahs: A History of Health Quackery*, (Princeton, 1967)

James Whorton, *Crusaders for Fitness. The History of American Health Reformers*, (Princeton, 1982)

Martin Kaufman, *Homeopathy in America*, (Johns Hopkins, 1982)

Norman Gevitz, *The D.O.s*, (Johns Hopkins, 1982)

Tuberculosis

Sheila Rothman, *Living in the Shadow of Death*, (Johns Hopkins)

Linda Braider, *Below the Magic Mountain: A Social History of TB in 20th Century Britain*, (Clarendon, 1988)

Mark Caldwell, *The Last Crusade*, (Atheneum, 1988)

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Pasteur

Rene Dubos, *Louis Pasteur: Free-Lance of Science*, (DaCapo, 1986)

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Medical Education

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